

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are rejected. Claims 1- 9 are allowed. Claim 1, 10 and 11 have been amended of which claims 1 and 10 are independent claims. New Claim 13 was added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based upon the amendments to the claims and the remarks herein.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-9 are allowed. Claim 1 and 10 and dependent claim 11 stands objected to because of informalities. In response, applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

New claim 13 was added. Support for this feature is found in the specification and drawings (Page 9 line 4 -22 to page10, line 1-4 and FIG. 3 reference character 211).

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ota (US 5,523,879) in view of Kato et al. (US 6,697,414) and Vanoli et al (US 5,712,716).

In response, applicants have amended base claim 10 to include allowed features from base claim 1 which along which applicants believe now makes claim 10 distinguishable over Ota, Kato, and Vanoli.

Claim 10, as amended, now recites a wavelength division multiplexed passive optical network system, comprising, *inter alia*, a central office having an optical power splitter coupled to an optical fiber, the optical power splitter (1) dividing an upstream optical signal from the optical fiber into a plurality of upstream optical signals having substantially similar power and (2) outputting a downstream optical signal to the optical fiber; and a plurality of subscriber units wherein at least one of the subscriber units

comprises:, *inter alia*, a plurality of optical transceiver modules including a semiconductor optical amplifier and a reflection-type optical fiber grating located at a predetermined distance from the semiconductor optical amplifier, the optical transmitter transmitting an upstream optical signal of a pre-set wavelength resonating between the SOA and reflection-type optical fiber grating; and an optical receiver including an optical fiber grating for transmitting only a downstream optical signal of a pre-set wavelength among the multiple downstream optical signals having the same power from the remote node and an optical detector for detecting light passing through the optical fiber grating.

As indicated in the Office Action, Ota, Kato et al. and Vanoli et al, do not specifically disclose or fairly suggest a system including the combination of all the elements and limitations recite in claims 1-9. In the case of base claim 10, applicants content that similarly Ota, Kato et al. and Vanoli et al, do not specifically disclose or fairly suggest a system including the combination of all the elements and limitations recite in claims 10. Claim 10 discloses the unique structure of the Central Office including an optical power splitter with the additional specific limitations of the structure of a plurality of subscriber units which include a optical transmitter that includes a semiconductor optical amplifier and a reflection-type optical fiber grating located at a predetermined distance from the semiconductor optical amplifier. Therefore, Ota, Kato et al. and Vanoli et al, do not specifically disclose or fairly suggest a system including the combination of all the elements and limitations recite in claims 10.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent

claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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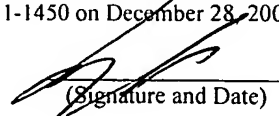
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